NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

October 13, 1995

United Way
Crusade of Mercy

Dear Colleagues:

Each year we are asked to join other Chicagoans in supporting the Crusade of Mercy United Way. In doing so we have the opportunity of helping others through a great variety of service agencies.

United Way
Crusade of Mercy

Like The Field Museum, the United Way depends on contributions from individuals. I hope each of you will consider making a pledge or contribution to this year's campaign. No gift is too small and every gift directly helps someone in the greater Chicagoland area. Your participation will help The Field Museum demonstrate its concern for others.

Sincerely yours,

Willard L. Boyd
President

Presentation to the Staff

CONNECTING: The Campaign for The Field Museum

by **Sandy Boyd**

Tuesday, October 17, 1995 at 10:00 a.m.
Montgomery Ward Hall

All staff and volunteers are encouraged to attend.

United Way
Crusade of Mercy

Dear Colleagues :

Many of us contribute to our favorite charities, be it a school or university, a religious organization, a non-profit service agency, a health research institute, or even a favorite museum. The number of homeless families, young people addicted to drugs, battered women, abandoned elderly and others in need appear to grow daily. No one can individually contribute to every charity, but a gift to the Crusade of Mercy is one of the best ways to assure that many vital social and human services continue to be available when people we care about need it.

United Way
Crusade of Mercy

For many years now, Museum staff has given generously to support a whole network of agencies providing much needed services to children, adults and the elderly through their contributions to United Way. As we begin this year's campaign, please consider if there is a way you can share a little bit more of what you have with those who are less fortunate.

Every gift is important.

Thank you,

Tom Geary
Judy Burns
Co-Chairs, United Way/Crusade of Mercy

ARRIVAL

Richard W. Quinn starts Monday, October 16, as Assistant to the Vice President for Institutional Advancement. Richard received his Bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and his Master's from the University of Chicago. Between schools, Richard worked in New York as assistant to the director of two different firms. We welcome Richard Quinn to the Museum where he will serve as office manager for Institutional Advancement and as coordinator and manager for many special projects, as needed.

Please note new phone extensions for Richard Quinn and Will White, following a recent redistribution of available numbers. Richard's extension is 617; Will's is 857.

Willard E. White, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Joe Vallejo** (Security Services) and former employee **Dora Vallejo** (Finance) on the recent death of his mother, Ortencia Vallejo.

We wish to extend our deepest condolences to **Irma Sanchez** (Visitor Services) and her family on the passing of her beloved father Rodolfo Carrillo. (For information on visitation and services, please call Anita Purnell x386.

Safety, The Field Museum

FORK LIFT AND PLATFORM LIFT SAFETY PRACTICE[1]

Most recent revision: October 13, 1995

The following Procedures apply to the use of the fork lift and all mechanical lifts being used in the Field Museum. Mechanical lifts include the Wildcat lift and the Hijacker lift unless otherwise specified.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Independent Contractors Independent Contractors may not use the Museum fork lift or platform lifts. Only Field Museum employees may use Museum equipment.

Training All staff members using the fork lift or platform lifts must be trained by a qualified trainer prior to operating them. A written notice of training listing the names of all staff members trained on lift equipment must be sent to the Safety Office. Department heads will determine who in their areas should be trained to use the lift equipment. Training must be renewed every two years.

FORK LIFT

Places of Use The fork lift may be used anywhere in the Museum.

Load Limit Load limit of the fork lift is 2500 pounds.

Parking The fork lift must be parked outside of essential pathways.

Maintenance It is essential that the fork lift be adequately maintained. The Museum's Engineering Department will regularly monitor and refill battery water. Each operator shall do a spot check of the fork lift based on the attached maintenance issues before using the fork lift. An annual inspection shall be conducted by an outside contractor. When maintenance checks reveal a problem with the fork lift, the Maintenance Department should be notified. FIELD MUSEUM STAFF SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR THE FORK LIFT.

LIFT PLATFORMS

Public Safety Whenever a lift is being used in public space during hours when the museum is open to the public, there must be in addition to the lift operator a second employee on the ground to insure that members of the public do not touch the machine. No matter where the lift is being used, it must be surrounded by a barrier utilising warning cones and chains. The barrier should be at least fifteen feet away from the machine in all directions.
Do not leave the lift unattended in public areas. If the lift must be left unattended in a public area, the control mechanism should be removed and the machine locked out.

Prohibited Areas The Wildcat lift should not be used on inclined surfaces, as raises the lift at an angle will cause it to topple.

Ramps in exhibit halls are inclined areas to be avoided. These include ramps in Hall 36, Pacific; Hall 13, Naturewalk; Egypt; Hall 19, Africa. The Wildcat should not be used on the artificial surface of Naturewalk, anywhere in the Northwest Coast Hall because of the wiring under the carpet. Instead of the Wildcat lift, the Hijacker lift should be used in these areas. Any staff member who becomes aware of other problematic areas for use of the lifts should report them to the Safety Coordinator so that this information can be passed on to other staff members.

Operator Safety The operator of the lift must secure the chain or bar so that there is a rail up on all four sides of the platform. The operator of the lift must wear a bump cap or hard hat at all times. Maximum weight on the lift, including the weight of the operator, is 500 lbs. NO BOARDS, LADDERS OR ANY OTHER OBJECT SHOULD BE USED ON TOP OF THE PLATFORM TO INCREASE ITS HEIGHT.

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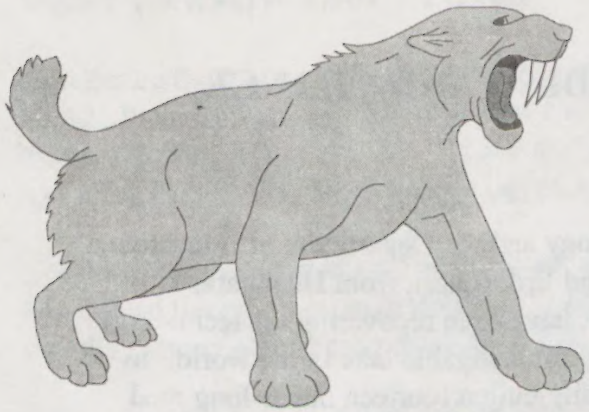
1. By Richard Koontz, Administrative Services.



CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

Thomas Lammers (Botany) attended the 42nd Annual Fall Systematics Symposium at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, held October 6 and 7. This year's topic was "The National Biological Survey." Attending with Tom were two graduate students in the plant sciences at the University of Illinois-Chicago, Anastasia Konopka and Kari Morris. While there, Tom met with the garden's assistant director, Nancy Morin, and Tatyana Shulkina, formerly of the St. Petersburg Botanical Gardens, who, like Tom, conduct research on the Campanulaceae. The three are working on a book that will summarize current knowledge and recent advances in the systematics and evolution of this large and cosmopolitan family of flowering plants.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon for October 10, 1995 was presented by Mr. Tanya Chanard, Chief, Phuluang Wildlife Research Center, Phuluang Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand, and participant in the Advanced Training Program in theConservation of Biological Diversity, Field Museum. Tanya discussed various aspects of the biodiversity of the herpetofauna of Thailand. In describing the geographic attributes of Thailand, Tanya related major physiographic and climactic features that have contributed to the formation of the variety of ecosystems occurring there. Thailand is bounded by Myanmar (=Burma) on the west, Laos to the north, Laos and Cambodia to the east, and the Gulf of Thailand opening into the South China Sea to the south, and extends from 5° N to 20° north latitude. This land mass, approximately 198,400 sq mi, is about 25% larger than the state of California, and with 54.6 million inhabitants has twice the population of California. Topographic diversity is considerable, elevation varies from sea level to more than 2,500 m. There are major mountain ranges in the western and central regions, vast central lowland plains and high elevation table lands in the east. Each of these regions contains a distinctive ecosystem, ranging from tropical evergreen dipterocarp forests, dry schlerophyl forests, high elevation pine forests, savannahs, to Rhododendron scrub forests at the higher elevations. To a great extent each of these ecologies is molded by the different tropical trade winds which give a highly seasonal aspect to rainfall in different areas of the country throughout the year. Monsoon rains may derive from north easterlys in January, south westerlys in July, and due westerlys in October and may bring typhoons that can completely traverse the southern Isthmus of Kra connecting Thailand to Malaysia to the south. After setting this stage, Tanya proceeded to dazzle us with a spectacular photographic array documenting many of the reptile and amphibian species found in Thailand. He commented on the distribution and feeding habits of many of these frogs, toads, salamanders, geckos, lizards, turtles, crocodilians, and snakes. He summarized distribution patterns by noting that 11 of the 111 species of amphibians and 41 of the 314 species of reptiles are endemic to a single forest system in Thailand. There is a major national park, wildlife sanctuary, or wildlife reserve in each of these forest systems. Existing national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in these forest systems respectively represent 7.5% and 4.9% of the total areaof Thailand. However continued deforestation pressure due to illicit logging or conversion to agriculture remains a serious challenge to maintaining this high level of herpetofaunal diversity. Tanya concluded his presentation with a consideration of the regions he considers to represent "hot spots" with respect to the greatest threat to habitat destruction, and indicated plans have been proposed to bring another 7.5% of total land area into the park/sanctuary/ reserve system.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

CELEBRACION

CCUC, in collaboration with the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Education, was pleased to sponsor the visit and program of Maximo and Erik Catari, from Huatajata, Bolivia, in conjunction with CELEBRACION. The Cataris have been recovering the technology of reed-boat making on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest navigable lake in the world. In 1993, the Cataris, together with other members of their family built a fourteen meter-long reed boat, the Titi, and made a month-long voyage around Lake Titicaca, to demonstrate the durability and navigability of reed boats. During their visit to Chicago, the Cataris also gave a lecture/slide show at NAES College. This provided them the opportunity to talk with NAES students and faculty and share concerns about maintenance of customs, recuperation of lost arts and technologies, and exchange information about their different nations. The students and faculty of NAES College welcomed the Cataris with a pot-luck feast and honoring drum songs. While the NAES College members were impressed with the efforts of the Cataris to preserve reed boats, the Cataris were impressed with the idea that there is a College for Native Americans. We would like to thank Mr. Jim Westerman, President of Carbit Paint, for financing the Catari's tour.

WALI AT THE WHITE HOUSE

On October 5, **Alaka Wali** attended the ceremony in honor of the recipients of the National Medal of the Arts and the Charles Frankel Prize Awards, at the White House, Washington, D.C. She was invited along with all of the other NEH National Conversation Initiative Project Directors. Among the recipients of the National Medal of the Arts was Chicago's own Urban Gateways Organization, with whom the Field Museum has a close relationship. President Clinton, in his speech to the assembled guests, mentioned the importance of the NEH Conversations Project for initiating needed dialogue on cultural diversity and pluralism in America.

Alaka Wali attended the annual meetings of the Latin American Studies Association in Washington, D.C., September 28-30. She was an invited discussant on a panel on *Social Change in Panama* since the 1989 invasion. Simultaneously, she also assisted the annual meeting of the National Black Child Development Institute, a grass-roots organization of educators, social workers, academics and community activists devoted to promoting education and health efforts for African-American children. Along with Sabiyha Prince of the City University of New York Graduate Center, she presented a paper on the methods and results of the Harlem Birth Right Research Project which is studying gender roles and pregnancy outcomes in Central Harlem, New York.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

WANT TO KNOW ABOUT LOVE?

Experience the Chicago Humanities Festival VI -- Love and Marriage, during the weekend of November 10-12. Presented at The Field Museum and other local cultural institutions, programs reveal insights into *Whom Do We Choose and Why? Love and Marriage: The Feminist Perspective*, the Catholic Perspective, an Indian Experience, in Pharoanic Egypt, in World Religions, and much more.

Volunteers are needed to staff information and press desks, greet festival attendants, distribute stagebills and collect tickets. You may give whatever time you are able to spare. When not working as a volunteer, you may attend other Festival progams free-of-charge.

For more information, please contact **Anita Morgan** (x360).

RIDE SHARING -- *It's the ECOLOGICALLY correct thing to do!*

Several staff members are interested in sharing rides to/from work:

Margaret Curran, Field Museum (x212), has car, southwest suburbs
Michelle Eskridge, Field Museum (x721), needs ride, 93rd & Jeffrey area
Laurie Sanders, Field Museum (x843), has car and would like to trade off, Downers Grove
Diane Alexander White, Field Museum (x683), has car, West Rogers Park area

As promised in last week's *Natural News,* throughout the month of October we are printing a column with the names of those staff/volunteers who want to share rides. Thereafter, it will be printed once a month, on the first Friday.

Why drive alone? *Share your car* -- one day a week or several days ... to and/or from the train station ... to and/or from your neighborhood ... to and/or from the suburbs. *Save money* -- by sharing expenses. *Share companionship* -- get to know your coworkers better and even staff from the other museums.

This *Natural News* column will be sent to the Shedd and the Adler for printing in their staff newsletters so that their staff can participate. If you wish to participate, send the form below to **Carolyn Klyce,** *Natural News. The deadline is 12 noon on Tuesdays.*

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THE VOLUNTEER SPECTATOR

For work in collections and research, exhibits, and with Museum visitors, appreciation goes to the current volunteers and their supervisors in the following departments:

BOTANY
Margaret Martling
Bill Burger

EXHIBITS
Carolyn Byrne
David Layman
Bettina MacAyeal
Alan Shefner
Gene Dillenburg
Maged Mikhail
Frank Yurco
Barbara Novy
Pamela Gable

LIBRARY
Peter Fortsas
Kasia Kipta
China Oughton
Marjorie Pannell
Martha Singer
Worthington Smith
Ben Williams
Robert Gowland
Ken Grabowski

MUSEUM STORE
Jerry Ripp
Patrick Hanrahan

PHOTOGRAPHY
Reeva Wolfson
Nina Cummings

VISITOR SERVICES AMBASSADORS
Mary Allan
Gwen Barnett
Daphne Dennehy
Edith Dervin
Susanna Doolin
Janet Hartl
Sue Ish
Lorraine Linnemeir
Reginald Simon
Marjorie Traylor
Joan Webber
Edith Wolnak
Anita Purnell

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Frank Leslie
Bruce Saipe
Erin O'Donnell

TOURS
William Roder
Dorothy Roder

ZOOLOGY
Amphibians and Reptiles:
Robert Brunner
Sophie Brunner
Ingrid Fauci
Alan Resetar
Fui Lian Inger
Robert Inger

Birds:
Paul Baker
Robert Cary
Bo Jap
Ben Marks
David Willard

Fishes:
Robert Brunner
Mary Anne Rogers

Insects:
Renee Buecker
Sidney Camras
Jack Piller
Philip Parrillo

Invertebrates:
Randall DeBouvre
Stanley Dvorak
Henry Greenwald
Edwin Kapus
Dorothy Karall
Armand Littman
David Walker
John Slapcinsky

Mammals:
Jodi Hoffheimer
Michael Huhndorf
Michelle Eji
Louise Dyer
Alison Ebert
John Ososky
Sheila Reynolds
Laura Zaidenberg
Bill Stanley

NEXT WEEK: **EDUCATION**